

Applicants : Josette Masle et al.
Serial No. : 10/519,135
Filed : August 15, 2005
Page 2 of 11 of January 30, 2008 Amendment

Amendments to the Claims:

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims as follows:

1. - 36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) A method of obtaining plants having enhanced transpiration efficiency which comprises ~~comprise, introducing into transforming~~ a culture of plant cells with a nucleic acid encoding an ERECTA protein having an amino acid sequence set forth in ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 20 and SEQ ID NO: 45~~ under conditions such that the nucleic acid is expressed in the plant cells, generating plants from the culture of plant cells, and selecting for plants having enhanced transpiration efficiency compared to plants generated from the plant cells present in the same culture ~~into which were not transformed with the nucleic acid was not introduced.~~

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the method further comprises propagating the plant having the enhanced transpirational efficiency.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the plant cells of the culture are selected from the group consisting of rice, sorghum, wheat and maize.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37, wherein the ~~nucleic acid is introduced into the~~ culture of plant cells is transformed with the nucleic acid by transforming the plant cells with ~~by introducing~~ a construct comprising a gene which expresses the ERECTA protein.

Applicants : Josette Masle et al.
Serial No. : 10/519,135
Filed : August 15, 2005
Page 3 of 11 of January 30, 2008 Amendment

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37, wherein the plant cells do not comprise a nucleic acid encoding SEQ ID NO: 2 prior to the transformation ~~introduction of the nucleic acid~~.
42. (Currently Amended) A method of obtaining a plant having enhanced transpiration efficiency comprising transforming ~~introducing into~~ the plant with a nucleic acid encoding an ERECTA protein having an amino acid sequence set forth in ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ SEQ ID NO: 2, ~~SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 20 and SEQ ID NO: 45~~ under conditions such that the nucleic acid is expressed in the plant, and selecting for plants having enhanced transpiration efficiency compared to the plant prior to transformation ~~with introducing the nucleic acid into the plant~~.
43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the method further comprises propagating the plant having the enhanced transpirational efficiency.
44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of rice, sorghum, wheat and maize.
45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the plant is transformed with the nucleic acid encoding the ERECTA protein ~~is introduced into the plant by~~ introgression.
46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the ~~nucleic acid is introduced into~~ the plant is transformed with the nucleic acid by transforming the plant with ~~introducing~~ a construct comprising a gene which expresses the ERECTA protein.

Applicants : Josette Masle et al.
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Page 4 of 11 of January 30, 2008 Amendment

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the plant does not comprise a nucleic acid encoding SEQ ID NO: 2 prior to transformation with ~~the introduction of~~ the nucleic acid.
48. (New) A method of obtaining a plant having enhanced transpiration efficiency which comprises transforming a culture of plant cells with an ERECTA gene under conditions such that the gene is expressed in the plant cells, and selecting from a plant having enhanced transpiration efficiency compared to plants generated from plant cells presented in the same culture which were not transformed with the gene.